

committed booster organization have wholeheartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended for their contributions to its great success.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band, winner of the 2014 Class 6A Texas UIL State Marching Band Contest. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REGIS GROFF

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Denver's most respected residents, former Colorado State Senator Regis Groff, who passed away on October 5 at age 79. This remarkable man merits both our recognition and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to stand for what's right. He leaves behind an impressive record of leadership in social justice and education, and he made an enormous impact on many lives.

Regis Groff wasn't afraid to fight the tough battles when he knew he was standing up for others. He worked to strengthen education and to ensure a fair system for everyone. He was an educator, a state senator and a community servant. We in Colorado are fortunate to have had Mr. Groff laboring for equality in our community. The legacy that he leaves behind should inspire us all to continue his fight with a measure of dedication with which he worked.

Born in a small town in Illinois, Regis Groff first came to Denver while serving in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base for several months. He returned to Illinois and attended Western Illinois University earning a BA in 1962. When it came time to settle down and raise a family, he chose to make Denver home. He taught at Smiley and Lake Junior High Schools before starting an African-American history class at East High School. Later he earned a master's in Education from the University of Denver in 1972.

A long-standing interest in politics led him to run for the Colorado State Senate. He was successful in his bid and served from 1974 to 1994. During those twenty years, he demonstrated time and again his willingness to fight for fairness and justice, including an effort to divest Colorado from South Africa's apartheid government. He cites the highlight of his time in the Senate as passing legislation that established a holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. in Colorado. His colleagues recognized his leadership and elected him the first African-American Minority Leader of the Colorado State Senate. His efforts were also rewarded with numerous awards from the community, including Legislator of the Year from the Associated Press.

Roy Romer appointed Regis as the first Director of the new Youthful Offenders System. His dedication to community service then continued in his role as Executive Director of the Metro Black Church Initiative. He was selfless

to the end. As a teacher, Mr. Groff had an impact on countless students. I hope some of them are as inspired by him as I am and will carry on his work to fight the good fight. His talents and perseverance are an example for us all.

Please join me in commending Regis Groff. His leadership in the search for justice and equality enriches our lives and builds a better future for everyone living in Colorado.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ROSCOE R. CASSIDY

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of an outstanding individual, Mr. Roscoe R. Cassidy of Preston, Kentucky. Mr. Cassidy served our nation in military uniform from June 3, 1942 to October 9, 1945 and recently passed-away at the age of 107.

As a young man, Mr. Cassidy began his service in the United States Army as a Private First Class assigned to Company E, 335th Engineering Regiment, Duty Soldier 188. During the United States' campaign to achieve victory over the Axis Powers, Mr. Cassidy fought his way from Tunisia, Africa, up through southern France, across Italy and did not stop until the Allies achieved victory in Germany.

Mr. Cassidy's valiant performance fighting in four major campaigns earned him great distinction, and for his actions he received the European Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, four Bronze Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After victoriously returning to his home in Preston, Kentucky, Mr. Cassidy began his career of farming and working for the Bath County Road Department. Mr. Cassidy enjoyed life and loved to dance while listening to country and bluegrass music.

Mr. Cassidy's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. CLARA I. SISSEL

#### HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Clara I. Sissel of Odessa, Texas. Since 2002, Ms. Sissel has sent more than 1,200 care packages to our armed services members stationed overseas. For her efforts, she is being honored by her family, friends, and the members of the Omni Club for her tireless and selfless service to our armed forces.

Ms. Sissel has made her care packages, or love boxes as she prefers to call them, a personal mission to show each service member that someone back home is thinking of them and cares about their well being. Although fourteen years is a long time, her service did not start in 2002. Ms. Sissel started her mission during the Vietnam War. Through the

years, she has sent at least one package per week at her own expense. As a token of remembrance, Ms. Sissel has created scrap books containing every letter that she has received from recipients of her care packages.

However, her efforts did not stop at her front door. Ms. Sissel has also led many Odessa organizations to join her mission in showing our armed service members that they are in our thoughts and prayers back home. She has brought together the VFW and local churches to help in running community care package drives. These care package drives allow people to donate goods or their time to help fill care packages for our veterans.

Clara Sissel's selflessness and determined dedication embody the American spirit and has lifted the hearts of thousands of service members worldwide. Her weekly token of appreciation reminds our service members that their daily sacrifices are not taken for granted, and I am sure they are thankful for Ms. Sissel's support. I am honored to recognize her as a true patriot in our community and to share her story with you all today.

#### IN HONOR OF BOB LEE

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Lee, a champion for justice who committed his life to public service and worked tirelessly to assure that the Central Coast of California is a safe place to live for all.

Bob launched his career in 1985 as a prosecutor in Monterey County before joining the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office in 1988, where he served as Assistant District Attorney for fourteen years. Bob was a notably gifted trial attorney, having never lost a case in Santa Cruz County.

Bob was elected Santa Cruz District Attorney in 2002. As District Attorney, he made significant structural improvements to the District Attorney's Office. He led efforts in developing and strengthening specialized units that prosecuted gang members, violent criminals, sex offenders, and cases involving environment and consumer protection abuses. Bob also played a pivotal role in establishing the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force, which centered on the containment of gang activity and prosecution of gang members.

A native of Santa Cruz, Bob was the youngest of four brothers. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from California State University of Sacramento in 1980. His Juris Doctorate was obtained only four years later from the University of Santa Clara.

After a long and brave battle with cancer, the Central Coast of California mourns the loss of one of its strongest leaders. Bob will be remembered for his incredible achievements in building a safer and more thriving environment in Santa Cruz County. He gave his life to his service and his fervor for justice will forever remain unmatched. The District Attorney's office will certainly cherish Bob's unforgettable dedication and will continue to carry out his resolute spirit in future pursuits. Bob was also an amazing family man, and is survived by his wife, Barbara Lee.